## **EXHIBIT D**

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110:17:10	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
2	CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA - WESTERN DIVISION
3	HONORABLE MICHAEL W. FITZGERALD, U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE
4	
5	INTER CENTER OF AMERICA )
6	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, )
7	Plaintiff, )
8	vs. ) ) 2:24-CR-621-MWF
9	DEONDRE DONTRELL WILSON, ) DAVID BRIAN LINDSEY, )
10	ASA HOUSTON, ) DURK BANKS, )
11	) Defendants.
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15	REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF HEARING
16	Los Angeles, California
17	Tuesday, November 18, 2025
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22	AMY DIAZ, RPR, CRR, FCRR
23	Federal Official Reporter 350 West 1st Street, #4455
24	Los Angeles, CA 90012
25	Please order court transcripts here: www.amydiazfedreporter.com

110:17:12 THE CLERK: Calling item number one, case number 210:17:16 CR-24-621-MWF, United States of America vs. Deondre Dontrell 310:17:23 Wilson, David Brian Lindsey, Asa Houston, and Durk Banks. 410:17:29 Counsel, please state your appearance for the 510:17:30 record. 610:17:32 MR. YANNIELLO: Good morning, Your Honor. Ian 710:17:33 Yanniello, Danny Weiner and Greg Staples on behalf of the 810:17:39 United States, and with us at counsel table is FBI Special 910:17:40 Agent Jaron Farmdy. 1010:17:43 MR. FINDLING: Good morning, Your Honor. Drew 1110:17:44 Findling, Marissa Goldberg, Jonathan Brayman, Christy 1210:17:47 O'Connor on behalf of Mr. Banks, who is present in court 1310:17:49 today. THE COURT: All right. Good morning, Counsel, good 1410:17:49 1510:17:51 morning, Mr. Banks. 1610:17:53 MR. HARBAUGH: Good morning, Your Honor. Craig 1710:17:54 Harbaugh on behalf of Mr. Wilson, who is present. 1810:17:56 THE COURT: Mr. Harbaugh, Mr. Wilson. 1910:18:03 MS. MOEEL: Good morning, Your Honor. Shaffy Moeel 2010:18:04 on behalf of Mr. Houston, who is present in custody. 2110:18:05 THE COURT: All right, Counsel, Mr. Houston. 2.210:18:05 MR. MILLS: Good morning, Your Honor. Tillet Mills 2310:18:08 and Robert Jones on behalf of Mr. Lindsey. 2410:18:09 THE COURT: Good morning, Mr. Lindsey, good morning, 2510:18:11 Counsel.

110:18:11 We are here for a hearing on the pretrial motions 210:18:18 which were filed. After they were filed, a further flurry 310:18:23 arose from the filing the motion for recusal, or 410:18:29 disqualification and dismissal, and then the ex parte 510:18:34 applications related to that. 610:18:37 Having received the first motion and the request 710:18:41 that certain exhibits be filed under seal, which I granted, I 810:18:48 thought it would be useful to discuss a scheduling -- a 910:18:55 schedule for that motion. And because certain things were 1010:19:02 being filed under seal, perhaps that discussion should be 1110:19:06 under seal, as well. 1210:19:07 Since then, the Government filed its initial 1310:19:12 1410:19:14

opposition. And I think it's correct that there are two issues raised by that motion: The first, the recusal and its related request to stay, and then the actual relief.

The Government did file its opposition to recusal and a stay; and therefore, we can discuss that this morning.

And after that, I think we can then turn to the other motions.

So the -- I think the Government frankly laid out why -- I just don't understand the request for the recusal, either of me or any other judge on this court. I just -- I just don't understand what the basis for that would be. It could be that if someone were ever brought to justice for the threats that were made to the magistrate judge, assuming a

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crime occurred, and assuming there was a prosecution, then 110:20:13 210:20:16 perhaps it would be appropriate for not just -- for all 310:20:20 judges on this court, not just myself, to recuse themselves 410:20:24 in that. But here, regardless of what threats would be made 510:20:25 610:20:28 to me or to anybody else, there would be no basis for a 710:20:31 recusal, especially here where it's understood that those 810:20:38 threats, and one presumes any future threats, would not be at 910:20:42 the instigation of these defendants. 1010:20:43 So again, I know the request has been made, so I 1110:20:48 want to hear your argument, but I just don't understand what 1210:20:50 the basis is for any recusals of any Central District judges. 1310:20:57 So, Counsel, do you want to be heard on that? 1410:21:03

MR. FINDLING: Your Honor, I'll start, and then -Drew Findling on behalf of Mr. Banks -- and then I'll kick it
off to cocounsel on this issue.

First, let me start by telling Your Honor that the Government's response does adhere to the briefing schedule. So we believe that this needs to be addressed in a -- we appreciate the opportunity to initially address it today.

THE COURT: No. Well, I think there is two issues.

The merits that -- of what you are requesting, that there should be either disqualification of the prosecutors or dismissal, that I think does -- that we'll take up at a future date after the briefing is complete. There will be an

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MR. FINDLING: Sure.

opposition, you will file a reply, we'll find a time to hear it. What I'm addressing now is just the request for a recusal and a stay.

So, Your Honor, let me first talk about the glaring omission in the Government's response that you make notice of is, first of all, there is a little bit of inconsistency, because on the one hand, my colleagues will be arguing at some point about the anonymous jury in which the Government relies on these calls as a reason for that. So they place great weight on it there, but as you recall from the filing

The calls that they reference, the big issue that we are most concerned about, is entirely left out of the Government's filing.

that they just did on this issue, they merely call it a few

If you will recall, respectfully, Your Honor, if you will recall, one of the exhibits in our motion that we filed on this issue was a letter we received from the Government when we sent them a letter about our concerns about the revelation that there had been threats to Judge Donahue going back to February, to Mr. Yanniello in April, but the central issue was that we were never told.

In fact, we don't even know to this day, it may be that Judge Donahue, respectfully, thought we were told and

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decided to waive the issue and not bring it up. As our attachments show, there was communications with Your Honor's chambers, whether it's Your Honor, or other people in your chambers, may have thought the Government did what I will call, as an officer of the court, the right thing, and let us know. You may have thought that, or your chambers may have thought that, Judge Donahue may have thought that. I would fathom they did think the Government notified us as counsel in this case, and we waived the issue.

The central issue that is omitted from the attachment we gave you, which is the Government's letter to us, is they literally never reference May of 2025. They never reference in that letter that we did a detention hearing for Mr. Banks in which, amongst other things -- and it was a hearing that was substantive. It was a change of circumstances hearing.

In fact, if you look at Judge Donahue's order in it, it is a substantive review of everything that took place in that hearing. So it wasn't a quick 15-minute hearing.

And what we did not know at the time when we were saying that Mr. Banks should be released on bail, that he was not a danger to the community, that he was not a threat to anybody in the case, witnesses or anything like that, we did not know, the Government did not let us know as counsel for Mr. Banks, as honorable members of the bar, that had been

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subjected to protective orders, and for attorney eyes only orders, so we have shown, don't conflate us with allegations you are making against people on this table. We are members of the bar. You did not bother to let us know that we were going in front of Judge Donahue, who had herself been threatened by a third-party.

So to think that we got a fair and impartial hearing at that time is faux. It is make-believe. And it is -- it is really, Your Honor, as somebody that has been doing this a long time -- and let me say, actually, loves being a lawyer, and you will never hear me saying anything adverse in the public about the people that represent the United States of America and their job -- but to think so little of us, that you would not let us know that we had a truly a ridiculous hearing.

And then for that, to go from there, and to be reviewed by Your Honor. Your Honor had the position in June when we -- to review not only what we said, but in looking at your order, your order fastidiously studied the order that was issued by Judge Donahue.

And so everything at that point was tainted. And what we didn't know, as our exhibits show, is the extent of this investigation that was done by the lead FBI agent, that a decision was made that the lead FBI agent in the case against Mr. Banks and these codefendants, was the lead

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110:26:38 investigator in these threats.

And all that communication is in our exhibits, was shared with Your Honor's chambers. And the threat to destroy the building, or whatever, we just assume everybody -- I mean, assume -- and I'll let -- cocounsel is going to address this issue, because it was a collaborative effort, the writing, as you would imagine -- but our thought process collectively was that this threat was taken very seriously, because the documents that we have submitted to Your Honor show that the U.S. Marshals Service, shows the FBI, and the Department of Justice didn't look at it, like the most recent filing, a few phone calls; they looked at it as a serious threat. And we would imagine that that was disseminated. People should know in this courthouse that somebody is making this, what was deemed a viable threat.

And so that is the cause of what we consider at this point to have been tainted proceedings. These have been a direct threat to the constitutional rights of Mr. Banks, his due process rights.

I say it again, Your Honor, I'm in total disbelief. Forty years, forty years, and there is not one part of me that can imagine a rationale for letting us walk honestly in front of Judge Donahue and make fools of ourselves.

As I said to my cocounsel, talking -- a lot of us have children, when we raise kids, particularly teenagers,

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you say there is a point and a counterpoint when you have a debate. But sometimes I said to my kids, there is no counterpoint. When I say to be in by 11, don't come back and say you can get in by 11:05.

To me, respectfully, there is no counterpoint in There is no rationale, there is no rationale that you this. let defense counsel, that is trying to protect the constitutional rights of our client, to try to make sure he has a fair and impartial determination as to whether in this critical stage in the proceedings, he should be released, so that he can be free and operate from the outside under the stringent conditions, and that he's not going to be a threat to the community, there is no rationale for not saying, we know that you all have really honored the protective order. We know you all have really protected the attorney's eyes only. You have shown us, okay, we want you to know -- and maybe they said it a -- we can't let anybody else know, but you should know before you argue, there is no rationale that the Government can come up here and say, as my colleague Mr. Brayman said, who has been a bird dog on case law around the country, he says over and over again, "Find me a case where a judge has told the Government, whether it be a state sovereign or the United States of America, it's okay to keep secrets and make fools of your opposing counsel," because such a case does not exist.

110:29:49 Because the one thing that we have, and more 210:29:51 importantly, Mr. Banks has, is the Constitution. And so we 310:29:57 operate under the thought process with this threat to the 410:30:01 courthouse, that this was taken -- and that is why we have overloaded you with exhibits, and we want -- we deeply want 510:30:04 an evidentiary hearing, because we have talked about it, we 610:30:07 710:30:11 are like, the Court may have just thought that we knew. The 810:30:16 Court may have thought we knew, and just went ahead and 910:30:21 thought we waived the issue. We have no doubt that is a 1010:30:24 major possibility, thought, yeah, the Government would never 1110:30:29 keep a secret like that, never. That would never happen. 1210:30:32 But we didn't know. 1310:30:33 So that is my thought process. I know I want to 1410:30:37

give time to my colleagues who want to address the same issue with the Court's permission.

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I think I'll pass to Mr. Harbaugh at this time.

MR. HARBAUGH: Your Honor, just very briefly, and I just want to address the objections that were filed.

So we appreciate the Court honoring our request to have this public, because we think it is --

THE COURT: I just want to repeat, Mr. Harbaugh, when I suggested that it might be closed, it was solely in regard to scheduling, and if the defense, which had requested that certain exhibits be filed under seal, wish to have a full discussion of those. It's -- once the Government filed

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its opposition, it was never my intention to have anything 110:31:21 210:31:25 other than a public hearing. 310:31:27 MR. HARBAUGH: Thank you, Your Honor. My -- our apologies. It was -- we were just going off the Court's 410:31:30 510:31:33 scheduling order. So I appreciate that. 610:31:35 THE COURT: Which was filed about 10 minutes after I 710:31:37 read your motion. So it's -- obviously, there is a lot of 810:31:40 water under the bridge since then. 910:31:42 So go ahead. 1010:31:43 MR. HARBAUGH: Understood, Your Honor. 1110:31:44 So my focus here is really on the -- our request for 1210:31:50 a stay pending resolution of the recusal with full fact 1310:31:56 development. 1410:31:57 1510:31:59

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And, Your Honor, at this -- the problem that the defense has, is we don't know what we don't know. We have very limited discovery that the Government provided to us only with the goal of relying upon that evidence in support of their motion for an anonymous jury.

It was not disclosed to us to inform us as to what is going on behind the scenes, that there are threats to the judiciary in this case. It wasn't to keep us apprised. It was solely for the Government's benefit, so they could pursue an anonymous jury. And, yes, it was maybe a few days before, but it was for the filing. Clearly, that was the sole intent.

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And so, Your Honor, we have some piecemeal information, and the defense certainly has a reasonable basis, and at this point we would reserve on whether, and to the extent which judges knew, but it's a reasonable inference that the courthouse was informed of this threat of causing damage to the entire building.

And so, Your Honor, the -- the defense has been at an incredible disadvantage, which is why we think a substantive evidentiary hearing should be ordered by the Court, so we can address these issues.

And our concern, and I apologize for jumping the gun, is that the Court was going to summarily deny the recusal motion, and then just proceed to the merit -- the substantive pretrial motions that the parties have filed.

And, Your Honor, even if the evidence -THE COURT: Go ahead, Mr. Harbaugh. Go ahead.

MR. HARBAUGH: Your Honor, even if the Court was not personally aware, the issue is what the public would perceive would be the appearance of bias based upon these looming threats, not by our clients, but in their names, specifically invoking their names.

And so, Your Honor, based upon that, we think the most prudent course is to schedule expeditiously a hearing on the recusal, and that the Court defer on the substantive motions today.

THE COURT: Thank you. 110:34:27 210:34:29 Do any other defense counsel wish to be heard? 310:34:33 Does the Government wish to be heard? 410:34:36 MR. YANNIELLO: Briefly, Your Honor. 510:34:37 We understand that the arguments that counsel is making, Mr. Findling, but that is conflating the issue. 610:34:43 issue before Your Honor is whether Your Honor can be 710:34:47 810:34:49 perceived as a biased arbiter of fact here. Mr. Findling, 910:34:55 his entire argument was based on what occurred before the 1010:34:59 magistrate judge. 1110:35:00 One thing I do agree with both counsel on is that 1210:35:03 the threats here have not been linked to any of the 1310:35:06 defendants in this case. They were third-party actors. And 1410:35:10 it would be not only counterintuitive, but it would defy 1510:35:15 binding circuit law if judges could be recused based on 1610:35:19 third-parties or people, even the defendants threatening or 1710:35:24 trying to intimidate the judge. 1810:35:26 There is binding law on this point in Clemons vs. 1910:35:29 United States District Court, the judge did not recuse, even 2010:35:33 though the underlying litigation was three -- a person who 2110:35:38 threatened three different Central District judges, three 2.210:35:42 different judges, and the District Judge still proceeded in that case. 2310:35:46

The Government's position is the Court can and should categorically reject and summarily deny the request to

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recuse. There is no basis to perceive that this Court can proceed in any fashion other than fair and impartial.

THE COURT: Thank you.

MR. FINDLING: May I respond briefly, Your Honor?

THE COURT: You may.

MR. FINDLING: Thank you.

Your Honor, I respectfully disagree with the Government when they say that -- my words are very clear to Your Honor, and I remember very well, I believe Your Honor gave us a lengthy hearing on June 2nd. We had the grand jury hearing on the transcripts that Ms. O'Connor did, and then the detention hearing was actually a lengthy hearing.

You took that under advisement, and then you issued -- you can see your own order -- you gave a very substantive analysis, not only the hearing, but you gave a substantive analysis of the decision that was made by the magistrate in May.

And if I remember correctly, in the sheet, it references in your order, it lists like the documents reviewed, or something like that, and I want to say all of them had May dates, if my memory serves me correctly.

And so while we see the documents going back and forth to your chambers, we don't know what was communicated to you. But here is what we do know: We do know that you were analyzing the May decision by Judge Donahue, who was

well informed of this threat. 110:37:21

> And so it wasn't just about Judge Donahue, it's that you were in a position -- and again, we say the same thing, we don't know if you or Judge Donahue thought we knew, we have no idea. And we -- and we concur on the staying the proceedings. You know, we want to move forward as hard as anybody else, but we feel that, we have fully explained to our client that we have a constitutional responsibility to stay and exhaustively look at this issue.

> And as Mr. Harbaugh said, it's really clear, it's the appearance, it's the appearance of impropriety, and that is something that the Government didn't talk about, and quite frankly, they can't talk about, because there is no counterpoint, it's indefensible.

> THE COURT: Well, that will be addressed later as to what the Government did, and how dire it is.

> On the matter that is currently before me, the first is should the request for recusal be referred to a different judge? The rules in this district are very clear, where that it is -- it is consistent with statute that the matter should first be considered by the judge to whom the request is made.

And keeping that in mind, the request is denied. There is no basis here for either my recusal, or for that matter, Judge Donahue's recusal.

And I disagree that counsel were made fools of.

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just don't think that is true. But that is -- I know that you sincerely do believe that, and we'll discuss that at the next hearing.

For now, it simply is not the case, and the Government is correct about the case law, that actions in this case can force a judge off the case. Of course, this is never going to happen, but even if one of the defendants here were to stand up and threaten me in open court, I would hold that person in contempt, but that would not be a basis for me to be recused from the case.

Like I said, it's one thing if someone were to be indicted and separately prosecuted for threats, but that is not the situation that we have here.

Rather, the situation is, can someone unilaterally force assigned judges off a case by making threats? And the answer to that question is no. And it has to be, because otherwise, there would be a -- there would be a reason that people might want to do that.

Here, it's especially the case where at no time has anyone thought that the defendants here had any role in this. It was clearly someone who just was agitated and acted out, and did something that should never have been done, but that just has nothing to do with these defendants; and therefore, there is simply no basis for my recusal, Judge Donahue's recusal, or to stay anything.

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The request for recusal is denied, and we will go forward with the current schedule.

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You know, the Government raised in its opposition the thought that this is, in essence, an attempt to obtain a continuance with counsel knowing the Government would object

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to that.

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I do take your views here, and your agitation seriously, and know that they are sincerely held, but the fact is if one of the defendants feels that there needs to be a continuance of this trial, I'm not in favor of that, clearly the Government isn't, probably many of the defendants and counsel are not, as well, then the request should just be made here, and I'll consider it. Is there -- is it necessary to have a continuance here?

But to do that gratuitously when I would either recuse myself, when there is no basis, or even refer it to another judge in this district, when there is no basis, then that just would be inappropriate, when it would likely lead to a continuance, which is something I don't want, I know the Government doesn't want it, because it said so, and it could well be that many of the defendants and counsel don't want it, either. So all the more reason that the request should be denied.

However, the second half of your motion, which is that the Government has done something which is sufficient to require some other sort of relief than recusal is something that we'll take up at the appropriate time.

Let me now turn to the numerous motions which are here.

The motion in limine, properly brought, as counsel said, early enough so it can affect how a trial is prepared, is obviously tied, then, to the motion to sever.

And the purported 404(b) evidence is so voluminous and so many different sorts that I'm just not prepared to address that today. So we'll address that at our next hearing. And there likewise, then, is -- we will address the motion to sever after the dust settles on the 404(b) motion.

What we are left with, then, is the motion to dismiss for vagueness, or in the alternative, for the bill of particulars, the motion to dismiss Count 4, the motion for an early -- to suppress evidence, which might have been mooted by the Government's concessions in its opposition, I wasn't clear on that, the motion for an early return of Jencks Act material, and as was mentioned, the Government's request for an anonymous jury.

So let's start taking those up.

Let me hear counsel on Mr. Banks's motion, in which the other defendants join, to dismiss for vagueness or the bill of particulars.

MS. O'CONNOR: Thank you, Your Honor.

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